

possals of compromise—of adjustment—on this question were made here, among counties of the same State, as if we were opposing antagonist communities? This was the origin of the discussion. And Mr. T. would say to the majority here, if you have the power to arrange this question to suit the reform party in the State, do it. Let it be your own act; one of mere power; the power of numbers. But do not make a plan to suit your own views without ever consulting the delegates for the slave counties, and then call it a compromise, as if we were parties to the arrangement.

Mr. T. wished not be misunderstood. He did not mean to say that there was at this time any purpose in any part of the State to interfere with the relation of master and slave. But he would say this, the arrangement of the representation question denies to the slave section of the State an adequate protection against the taxing power of the Legislature. It is a very easy matter for the majority in the Legislature to arrange the assessment to suit themselves. If he is told that this idea calls in question the impartiality and patriotism of the Legislature, he would answer that some portions of the State have been always complaining of the unjust operation of the tax law. Baltimore has complained—and the counties have complained. And, indeed, so far from its being a mere suspicion of injustice, the fact is established by the public documents. Mr. Tuck had heretofore spoken of the interest his county had in the question, owing to her high assessment compared with many other of the counties. To be more definite as to slave property, he would say that the highest assessment of men in his county is \$6 0, and the same in Anne Arundel—in Montgomery, Charles and Calvert it is \$500. These are to be reduced in their delegations. In Frederick the assessment is \$360—Washington and Carroll \$400—Baltimore and Harford \$300—Allegany \$340, and Cecil \$275. This system is unjust, and there should be another assessment; but does any one believe that those who have the power to do us justice will grant it at their own expense? The attempt has been made more than once and failed. When will it succeed? He had no such hope. We must toil, labor and endure still, and for our recompense look to that reward which every patriotic heart enjoys—the sense of having done one's duty.

Mr. T. had made these remarks merely to defend his own course. Whatever gentlemen here may say of the soundness of public sentiment among their constituents, he had seen very little in the way of practical measures to satisfy him that some feeling does not exist in the State on the subject of slavery. In what direction it was tending, to what extent it had gone, he could not say. He regretted that this line of debate had become necessary. He would not have said one word of the kind if terms of compromise had not been spoken of, and forced upon us on a very delicate subject, in regard to which, he had thought there was but one sentiment in this hall.

Mr. SMITH regretted exceedingly that the exciting subject of slavery had been introduced into a proposition of this kind. He certainly had no such intention in bringing this report before the Convention. He regretted, most sincerely regretted, to see this local feeling, this constant appeal to the slaveholding portion of the State to rally against Western Maryland. He could not be held responsible for the sentiments of any gentleman from Allegany or Washington counties upon the subject of federal numbers. He desired upon the subject of slavery to say, that Western Maryland was as sound as the gentleman's county, (Prince George's,) or any other county of the State. Allegany county upon that subject is a unit. He had never heard the subject of federal numbers as a basis of representation discussed in his county, and if suggested here in this Convention, it was only as a matter of compromise on the part of the West. An increased representation from Western Maryland was demanded as a matter of right and of principle, and should be so.

He came to this Convention very conservative in his views and feelings upon that subject, as will be seen by his votes. When, however, a direct assault was made on his county by the gentleman from Prince George's, and the vote taken, he was driven from his position; and he never did or would consent to vote for a provision in the constitution without an increase in the relative aggregate strength of Allegany county. Under the present constitution, we were entitled to one-half part of the whole number of delegates. In the present apportionment, as agreed upon, we will have one-nineteenth. He was very unwilling that this question should further agitate this Convention, as constant appeals were made to slaveholders to rally against the aggressions of the western part of the State. He voted to give Baltimore city ten delegates most reluctantly. It was a bitter pill, and taken most reluctantly, as he always opposed Baltimore city having more than the largest county of the State. He believed this to be the general sentiment of his county. He had frequently consulted with his friends in the Convention from various parts of the State, and always urged an increase for the western counties, and restricting Baltimore city to the number of the largest. He regretted, after making the fairest possible proposition, that the gentleman of Prince George's should make a direct assault upon Allegany county, by moving to deprive it of one member. It was most unkind, especially as his colleagues were generally voting against his conservative views.

Mr. S. regretted that the action of his friends in the Convention compelled him to vote for Mr. Grason's bill. He could not have supposed it possible to introduce so exciting a subject as slavery by introducing this proposition for a new county.

Mr. JENIFER said that the very object he had in offering his amendment, was to establish the principle spoken of by the gentleman from Prince George's. He (Mr. J.) was not surprised at the course taken. His object was to